

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for collecting and storing a non-blood genetic material sample, said sample collected from a subject by an individual, comprising the steps of:

- (a) collecting the sample;
- (b) transferring the sample to a dry solid support matrix contained on a storage card;
- (c) sealing the storage card into a sample pouch; and
- (d) storing the sealed sample pouch in a location designated by the individual or the subject.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is the subject.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample comprises saliva, mouth cells, or a combination thereof.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the sample comprises genetic material selected from the group consisting of viruses and infectious organisms.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is selected from the group consisting of human and non-human animal species.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the dry solid support matrix comprises a compound or composition that reduces the risk of contamination and degradation of the non-blood genetic material.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the non-blood genetic material sample from the subject comprises the steps of:

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(a) labeling the storage card wherein the storage card comprises one or more specimen circles containing the dry solid support matrix; and

(b) swabbing the inside of the mouth of the subject  
5 with an absorbent material wherein the sample absorbs onto the absorbent material.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the absorbent  
10 material is a sponge.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the non-blood genetic material sample comprises the steps of:

15 (a) blotting the absorbent material containing the sample sorbed thereon onto the specimen circle comprising the labeled dry solid support matrix on the storage card wherein the sample is affixed to the dry solid support matrix; and

(b) air-drying the affixed sample onto the dry solid  
20 support matrix.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein sealing the storage pouch comprises the steps of:

(a) labeling the storage pouch;

5 (b) placing the storage card containing the sample affixed to the dry solid matrix into the storage pouch wherein the storage pouch optionally contains a desiccant;

(c) closing the storage pouch; and

10 (d) placing a tape over the closed portion of the storage pouch.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the storage pouch is resealable.

15 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the tape is a tamper-resistant security tape.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the sealed storage pouch comprises the steps of:

(a) labeling a permanent storage folder;

(b) placing the sealed sample pouch into the  
5 permanent storage folder; and

(c) storing the labeled permanent storage record folder in a location designated by the individual or the subject wherein the sample affixed to the dry solid support matrix is obtainable at any time by the individual or the subject for  
10 subsequent analysis.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

15 repeating steps (a) and (b) until all of the at least one specimen circles comprising the dry solid support matrix contain the sample affixed thereto.

15. A method of collecting and storing a non-blood genetic material sample, said sample collected from a human or non-human animal subject by an individual wherein the individual is optionally the subject comprising the steps of:

5 (a) labeling a storage card wherein the storage card comprises one or more specimen circles containing the dry solid support matrix;

(b) swabbing the inside of the mouth of the subject with a sponge to obtain a non-blood genetic material sample  
10 comprising mouth cells, saliva, viruses, infectious organisms or a combination thereof wherein the sample sorbs onto the sponge;

(c) blotting the sponge containing the sample sorbed thereon onto a specimen circle comprising the labeled dry solid support matrix on the storage card wherein the sample is affixed to  
15 the dry solid support matrix;

(d) air-drying the affixed sample onto the labeled dry solid support matrix wherein the dry solid support matrix comprises a compound or composition that reduces the risk of contamination and degradation of the affixed non-blood genetic  
20 material;

(e) labeling a resealable storage pouch;

(f) placing the storage card containing the sample affixed to the dry solid matrix into the resealable storage pouch wherein the storage pouch contains a desiccant;

5 (g) closing the resealable storage pouch;

(h) placing a tamper-resistant security tape over the closed portion of the resealable storage pouch thereby sealing it;

(i) labeling a permanent storage record folder;

10 (j) placing the sealed storage pouch into the labeled permanent storage record folder; and

(k) storing the labeled permanent storage record folder in a location designated by the individual or the subject wherein the sample affixed to the dry solid support matrix is obtainable at any time by the individual or the subject for  
15 subsequent analysis.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

repeating steps (a) and (b) until all of the at least one specimen circles comprising the dry solid support matrix contain the non-blood genetic material affixed thereto.

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17. A kit for collecting non-blood genetic material, comprising:

- (a) a sponge;
- (b) a dry solid support matrix;
- (c) a dessicant;
- (d) a storage pouch; and
- (e) a permanent storage record folder.

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18. The kit of claim 17, wherein the storage pouch is resealable.

19. The kit of claim 17, further comprising:

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- (f) tape.



20. The kit of claim 19, wherein the tape is tamper-resistant security tape.